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4/29/02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Mao et al

Serial No: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: Biodegradable Polymers Chain-  
Extended by Phosphates,  
Compositions, Articles and Methods  
for Making and Using the Same

Art Unit: 1714

Examiner: Szekely, P.

Attorney Docket No. GPT-005.03

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

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*William Homan*

William Homan

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please enter the following amendment in the written description. At page 1, l. 8, please insert the following:

**"RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/654,326, filed September 1, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S.S.N 09/053,649, now U.S Patent No.6,166,173, filed April 2, 1998 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N 08/832,217 filed April 3, 1997, all specifications of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety."

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-133 without prejudice and add new claims 134-154: